

said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of [subscriber] user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling a time for transmitting said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one [subscriber] user, said scheduled time differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said scheduled time for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one [subscriber] user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive and store said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said received and stored programming at said scheduled time for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

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3. (Twice Amended) A method of communicating programming to at least one [subscriber] user in a network, said network comprising at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of [subscriber] user stations, each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of [subscriber] user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling one of a channel and a frequency for transmitting said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one [subscriber] user,

said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one [subscriber] user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to select and store said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said selected and stored programming on said one of said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

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4. (Twice Amended) A method of communicating programming to at least one [subscriber] user in a network, said network comprising at least one programming origination station, a plurality of intermediate transmission stations, and a plurality of [subscriber] user stations, each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations receiving programming from said at least one programming origination station and retransmitting said received programming to at least one of said plurality of [subscriber] user stations, said method comprising the steps of:

scheduling one of a time and a channel and a frequency for transmitting a portion of said programming from each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to said at least one [subscriber] user, said [one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency] portion of said programming differing from intermediate station to intermediate station;

communicating to a computer at each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency in order for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said programming to said at least one [subscriber] user;

transmitting said programming to said plurality of intermediate transmission stations;

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controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to receive [and store] at least some of said programming for a period of time; and

controlling each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations to transmit said at least some of said [received and stored] programming at said one of said scheduled time and said scheduled channel and said scheduled frequency for each of said plurality of intermediate transmission stations.

5. A method of signal processing in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first signal to said at least one intermediate transmission station, said first signal containing at least one identification datum;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a first time on the basis of information one of contained in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said first step of controlling including:

- (1) communicating at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said at least one identification datum; and
- (2) storing said at least a portion of said first signal and said at least one identification datum;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a second time on the basis of information one of contained in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said second step of controlling including:

- (1) selecting said first signal;
 - (2) selecting a second signal, said selected second signal containing at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation;
 - (3) modifying at least a portion of said second signal; and
 - (4) transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal; and
- outputting said mass medium programming presentation at said at least one ultimate receiver station.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of receiving at said at least one intermediate transmission station a signal containing one from the group consisting of:

- (1) local-formula-and-item information;
- (2) formula-and-item-of-this-transmission information;
- (3) one of video, audio, and print;
- (4) an intermediate generation set;
- (5) a program instruction set;
- (6) meter-monitor information; and
- (7) a transmission schedule.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein at least one of said first signal and said second signal is selected at a selected time, said method further comprising the steps of:
receiving a timing control signal at said at least one intermediate transmission station; and

selecting said at least one of said first signal and said second signal based on said timing control signal.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said at least one identification datum is at least part of a timing control signal, said method further comprising the step of receiving a transmission schedule which one of contains said at least one identification datum and is effective to select said first signal at a selected time based on said at least one identification datum.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes video and said selected first signal contains a video image to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said video of said mass medium programming presentation contained in said second signal.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes audio and said selected first signal contains an audio presentation to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said audio of said mass medium programming presentation contained in said second signal.

11. The method of claim 5, wherein said mass medium programming presentation includes print and said selected first signal contains one of text information and graphic information to be presented one of in combination with and sequentially with said print of said mass medium programming presentation contained in said second signal.

12. The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal is modified on the basis of one of at least one data control instruction and at least one processor control instruction contained in

said first signal, said method further comprising the step of inputting at least a portion of said first signal to a computer.

13. The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal contains higher language code and said second signal is modified by placing information into said higher language code, said method further comprising the step of assembling said higher language code at one of said at least one intermediate transmission station and said ultimate receiver station.

14. The method of claim 5, wherein said second signal contains higher language code which is assembled at said at least one intermediate transmission station and controls said ultimate receiver station, said method further comprising the step of linking assembled higher language code at said at least one intermediate transmission station.

15. A method of signal processing in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first signal and at least one identification datum in said network;

modifying a second signal at said at least one intermediate transmission station based on at least one of said stored first signal and said stored at least one identification datum, said modified second signal operating at said at least one ultimate receiver station to output part of a mass medium programming presentation; and

transmitting said modified second signal.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said mass medium programming presentation is a combined medium presentation and said part of said mass medium programming presentation is one of video, audio, print, and a television programming segment.

17. A method of signal processing in a network having a plurality of receiver stations, each of said plurality of receiver stations being one of an intermediate transmission station and an ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one instruct signal which is effective to perform one of:

- (a) effecting a transmitter station to modify a signal to operate at said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation; and
- (b) effecting a first receiver station to modify a signal to operate at a second of said plurality of receiver stations to output part of a mass medium programming presentation;

receiving a transmitter control signal which operates in said network to communicate said at least one instruct signal to a transmitter; and

transmitting said transmitter control signal and a first of said at least one instruct signal.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a command is operative to control transmission of mass medium programming, said method further having one step from the group consisting of:

transmitting said mass medium programming to at least one of said transmitter station and said first receiver station in accordance with said command;

transmitting said mass medium programming from said transmitter station in accordance with said command; and

controlling a selective transfer device to communicate said mass medium programming at said first receiver station in accordance with said command.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a transmission schedule; and

transmitting at least one of mass medium programming and a second of said at least one instruct signal according to said transmission schedule.

20. A method of signal processing in a network, said method comprising the steps of:
receiving at a plurality of receiver stations at least one signal transmitted from one of a remote broadcast transmitter station and a remote cablecast transmitter station;
storing and modifying said at least one signal at a first of said plurality of receiver stations based on information contained in said at least one signal; and
outputting part of a mass medium programming presentation at a second of said plurality of receiver stations based on said stored and modified at least one signal.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said received at least one signal is one of a television signal and a radio signal, said method further comprising the step of detecting at least one control instruction in said received at least one signal.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said received at least one signal is one of a multichannel broadcast signal and a multichannel cablecast signal, said method further comprising the steps of:
selecting at least a portion of said one of said multichannel broadcast signal and said multichannel cablecast signal in which to detect at least one control instruction; and
transferring said selected at least a portion of said one of said multichannel broadcast signal and said multichannel cablecast signal to one of a control signal detector and a digital detector.

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23. (Twice Amended) A method of ~~signal processing~~ in a network having at least one intermediate transmission station and at least one ultimate receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

[transmitting] receiving a first signal to said at least one intermediate transmission station, said first signal containing a data portion and at least one identification datum;

receiving at said at least one intermediate transmission station a second signal containing at least a portion of a mass medium programming presentation;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a first time in accordance with said first signal, said first step of controlling including:

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(1) communicating at least a portion of said first signal to a storage location, said at least a portion of said first signal including said data portion; and

(2) storing said at least a portion of said first signal, including [and] said data portion;

controlling said at least one intermediate transmission station a second time on the basis of information one of contained in and communicated to be processed with said first signal, said second step of controlling including:

(1) selecting said stored data portion;

(2) selecting at least a portion of said second signal;

(3) modifying said selected at least a portion of said second signal; and

(4) transmitting said modified at least a portion of said second signal; and

outputting said mass medium programming presentation at said at least one ultimate receiver station.